

Scott M. Matheson
Governor



STATE OF UTAH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

150 West North Temple, P.O. Box 2500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

533-6146

August 19, 1981

Alvin E. Rickers, Director
Room 426 801-533-6121

JIM

SEP 09 1981

SEP 8 1981 JIM

LCS

SEP 16 1981

copy to
wayne

file in
Kennecott's
Bingham Mine
file

James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Executive Director
801-533-6111

DIVISIONS

Community Health Services
Environmental Health
Family Health Services
Health Care Financing
and Standards

OFFICES

Administrative Services
Health Planning and
Policy Development
Medical Examiner
State Health Laboratory

Mr. Frank Snell
District Manager
Salt Lake District
Bureau of Land Management
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

Dear Mr. Snell:

The Division of Environmental Health staff has reviewed the materials submitted June 17, 1981 by Kennecott regarding the proposed land exchange.

As a result of staff review on the submitted materials (including supplemental material received July 22, 1981), it seems to us that use of the four acre dumping site on the Nevada tract would not adversely affect the ground and surface waters of the Butterfield Canyon area. This is conditioned on a no leaching program.

We are concerned that adverse impacts to the surface or groundwater may occur on other tracts involved in the exchange.

Additionally, we are alarmed that if BLM relinquishes its control on these public lands (through exchange) the opportunity will be lost to be able to monitor the impact of a large leaching operation on the Jordan Valley aquifer.

We need detailed monitoring data as near as possible to the actual leaching program. To accomplish this objective, it is imperative that we retain public entry to have an active monitoring system.

We recommend that based upon the Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLMPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), BLM should make an assessment of the copper leaching operation and determine if any adverse effects will result. Under FLMPA, BLM regulations require the operator to furnish sufficient data to allow BLM to determine if the operations that have been and will be occurring will cause unnecessary degradation of public property and be a potential public health risk.

0001

Mr. Frank Snell
Page Two
August 19, 1981

As a control agency, we are requesting some detailed information from Kennecott regarding their leaching operation and its impact upon the surface and groundwaters of the State. We are very concerned about the possibility of serious pollution as a result of the leaching operations and seek to obtain enough data to help us evaluate a future course of action. We recommend that you consider a similiar program before you make your decision on the land exchange.

We appreciate this opportunity to review these documents and comment on the land exchange. We offer our professional staff assistance to help BLM if requested to do so. We have on file a significant amount of groundwater data. We would be pleased to respond to requests relating to any data which BLM feels could help in this study.

Sincerely,



Alvin E. Rickers, Director
Division of Environmental Health

JRR:drb

cc: Salt Lake City-County Health Department
Salt Lake City Office of Water Quality
EPA - Region VIII
Parsons, Behle and Latimer